

REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1 and 3-5 remaining pending and under examination. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments offered with the present response.

The rejection of claims 2 and 3 which have been objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim is also respectfully traversed in view of the amendment of claims 1 and 3-5. The subject matter of claim 2 has been inserted into claim 1 by amendment and claim 2 has been cancelled as redundant. All other claims depend upon the amended claim 1 which is now deemed to be allowable.

In order to distinguish over the newly cited reference, Higuchi et al., (USP 6,129,640), claim 1 has been amended to specify that the outer core of the golf ball is formed from a rubber composition comprising polybutadiene, a crosslinking agent, an organic peroxide and a filler. The claim can include other materials. The Examiner has indicated this to be an allowable claim by noting that if claim 2 is rewritten in independent form, he would allow claim 2. Claim 3 has been made dependent on the amended claim 1 and this subject

matter has already been indicated as being allowable. Claims 3 and 4 which were originally presented would now be dependent upon the amended claim 1 and therefore would be considered allowable as well.

The abstract has been rewritten to comply with the requirements of the Patent Manual, section 608.01(b). Thus, the abstract now contains less than 150 words and less than 25 lines and is written as a single paragraph.

In view of the foregoing changes and argument, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and favorable action and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited.

#### Conclusion

Should the Examiner wish to contact Applicants' representative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward H. Valance (Reg. No. 19,896) at the telephone number of the undersigned below in the Washington Metropolitan area.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to February 5, 2004 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$950.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

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overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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